

What is an OST Literacy Coach?

The job of an Out-of-School-Time Literacy Coach is to support the staff of OST programs. This support consists of guidance on the setup and environment of the program, student grouping for optimal educational impact, and the effective implementation of literacy activities. It is not the goal of the literacy coach to instruct out of school time staff to be teachers, it is to educate them on how to best support the learning youth are doing in the school classroom. The learning support consists of making connections and addressing the same skills and practices that are being used in the classroom. These include interactive read alouds, book discussions, independent reading, shared writing, interactive writing, independent writing and reflection. The literacy coach also guides staff in providing effective homework support to scaffold the students and gradually release the responsibility to help students become independent workers. The literacy coach does not work directly with students, their priority is the staff and supporting the activities and interactions between program staff and youth. By supporting staff, the literacy coach can help shift the mentality of the program from after school custodial care to a place with educational value that provides positive support and interactions for the youth of the school or community.